

Docket No.: 1614.1349

Serial No. 10/626,667

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, in the independent claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to clarify the invention being claimed and dependent claims 2 and 3 are amended to improve form. Further, dependent claims 7-9 and dependent claims 10-12, respectively dependent on the independent claims 1, 5, and 6, are added to afford further clarification of the connector/cable guide structure and which are submitted to further patentably distinguish over the references of record.

Claim 4 is cancelled.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

The rejections of the pending claims are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 and new claim 7-10 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are objected to because "balanced cable" is unclear. In response, each of claims 1 and 5 is amended to recite a "balanced transmission cable". This amendatory recitation is submitted to clearly define the invention.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Orr et al in view of Saka et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the foregoing, claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended to clarify that the cable guide can be held by the cable cover at an oblique angle between a distal end part and the straight base part and claims 5 and 6 further specify "a selected one of plural axial angles" of the distal end part with respect to the connector cover.

Further, dependent claims 7, 8, and 9, respectfully depending from independent claims 1, 5 and 6, specify the cable guide as having a selected one of plural predetermined curvatures whereas dependent claims 10-12 characterize the cable guide as defining a selected one of plural different "drawing-out angles". (See specification at page 8, lines 14-35).

It is submitted that these features as well clearly patentably distinguish over the references of record.

The feature that the cable guide has a curved shape, in that the distal end part forms an oblique angle, not a 90-degree angle, with regard to the straight base part, is significant in view of the large rigidity of balanced transmission cables. Reference should be made to page 2, line 25 of the original disclosure. In ordinary cables, such as in Tsuji, the cables are bent at an angle of 90 degrees. The recitation of this feature thus further distinguishes the present invention over Tsuji.

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CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims distinguish patentably over the references of record.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: October 18, 2005By: 

H. J. Staas

Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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STAAS & HALSEY

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